

New EDDS data from Prince George's County, Maryland highlight marijuana and PCP positives

CESAR is pleased to announce the release of the urinalysis results from the three participating hospitals in Prince George's County, Maryland for January-September 2020 on the [CESAR EDDS site](#). Data is available through EDDS for Jan 2013-September 2020. We now obtain results for specimens that have tested positive for any drug, as well as those that were negative for all drugs, and have recalculated our statistics to include the negative specimens.

In the latest quarter available, July-September 2020, the Laurel Medical Center (LMC) reported their highest percentage of specimens (38%) testing positive for marijuana since 2013. The other two EDDS hospitals in Prince George's County reported peak levels of marijuana positives earlier in 2020.

Table 1 provides an overview of some patient demographics and other drugs found in all specimens from the 3 hospitals that had tested positive for marijuana. In two of the hospitals (PGHC, LMC) the majority of specimens came from males. The mean ages of the patients were early to mid 30's. Additional drugs were found in 22% to 46% of these marijuana positive specimens. PCP was the most common other drug found in the marijuana positive specimens from PGHC (19%) and LMC (17%). Table 2 shows that patients from these hospitals who tested positive for marijuana who were aged 30 or older were four times more likely to test positive for PCP than younger patients. Perhaps older users of PCP and marijuana are more likely to have adverse health consequences that bring them to the ED. As the chief complaint is not known for these cases, it is also possible that the use of these drugs had nothing to do with why these patients came to the ED. The complete test results for all participating hospitals are available at the [CESAR EDDS site](#).

Table 1: Age, Gender and Other Drugs Detected in Specimens Positive for Marijuana in Three Prince George’s County Hospitals, July-September, 2020
(N=660 marijuana positive specimens)

	University of Maryland Prince George’s Hospital Center (PGHC) (N=470)	University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center (LMC) (N=153)	University of Maryland Bowie Health Center (BHC) (N=37)
Male	63%	63%	43%
Mean Age	34.64	32.54	34.11
Marijuana positive specimen contained any of the 5 drugs below:	46%	39%	22%
Other Drugs* Detected in Marijuana Positive Specimens	%	%	%
1. PCP	19	17	3
2. Benzodiazepines	14	9	3
3. Opiates	13	3	8
4. Cocaine	9	11	5
5. Amphetamines	4	9	8

*Omits drugs found in <5% of these specimens: barbiturates and methadone.

Table 2: Percentage of Marijuana Positive Specimens That Tested Positive for PCP, By Age Group, July-September 2020
(N=623 marijuana positive specimens from PGHC and LMC)

	University of Maryland Prince George’s Hospital Center (PGHC) (N=470 marijuana positive specimens)		University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center (LMC) (N=153 marijuana positive specimens)	
	Age		Age	
	<30 (n=200)	30+ (n=270)	<30 (n=64)	30+ (n=89)
Tested Positive for PCP	7%***	29%***	6%**	25%**

p<.01; *p<.001 by Chi-Square.